

THE WEATHER
Today—Fair; cooler. Tomorrow—
Fair; moderate west to northwest
winds. Highest temperature yester-
day, 82; lowest, 56.

THE WASHINGTON HERALD

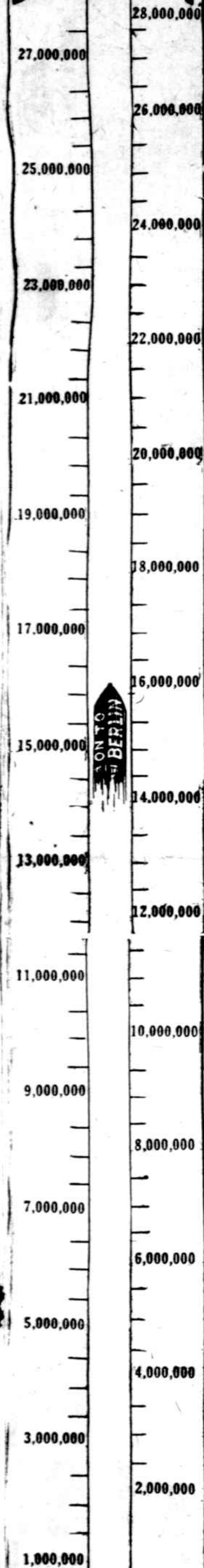
BE PATRIOTIC—use newspapers
efficiently. When you have
finished reading your copy of
The Washington Herald, hand it to some
person who has not seen one. Make
each copy do double duty in wartime
and help save paper.

NO. 4371

WASHINGTON, D. C., MONDAY, OCTOBER 14, 1918.

ONE CENT in Washington and Suburbs.
Elsewhere Two Cents.

BERLIN



EXECUTIVE SILENCE; NOTE; FRENCH CAPTURE LA FERRE

Allies' Advance Reaches Outskirts of Laon, Capture of Which May Occur Within a Few Hours.

HUNS YIELD NISH TO SERBIANS

St. Gobain Plateau Nearly All in Allies' Hands and Oise Salient Abandoned By Enemy.

Paris, Oct. 13.—La Fere, the link in the Hindenburg line between St. Quentin and Laon, has been occupied by the French, the war office announces.

The Anizy Heights and Versigny also were captured. (Versigny lies just west of the La Fere-Laon Railway, a little more than three miles southwest of La Fere.)

Berlin, via London, Oct. 13.—"We have lost Nish," says the German war office in its report of operations in the Balkans, given out today.

LAON NEAR FALL.

London, Oct. 13.—The French are in the outskirts of Laon, according to latest word from the front tonight.

The Oise salient has been practically evacuated by the Germans, it is learned.

The Franco-American advance north of the Argonne threatens the German left flank.

Practically all of the St. Gobain Plateau is in allied hands.

The German retirement now under way is extremely serious for the enemy, because it means the abandonment by him of his main defensive lines and his falling back to ground that is unprepared for a stand.

ADVANCE UNABATED.

Paris, Oct. 13.—Troops of the French Fifth army have advanced to within four kilometers (two and a half miles) of Laon. This is announced in the war office communique issued late last night.

All reports from the front indicate the French advance continues unabated, and the fall of Laon may be a matter of hours.

Paris, Oct. 13.—The railway between La Fere and Laon has been cut by the French, the war office announces in its day communique.

VICTORY IN CHAMPAGNE.

Paris, Oct. 13.—"The Champagne battle, which began on September 26, ended in a complete defeat of the enemy," says the war office communique late last night. "The Fourth army liberated the bend of the Aisne, with thirty-six towns and villages, capturing 21,567 prisoners, including 499 officers, and taking 600 guns, 3,500 machine guns, 100 minewerfers (mine throwers), several hundred wagons and great quantities of ammunition and war material.

"The Fifth army crossed the Retourne River, progressing ten kilometers (six and a half miles). Vieux-les-Asfeld and Asfeld-la-Ville, south of Balzay, were taken.

"The Aisne has been crossed between Guincourt and Nuchateau, and we are advancing on Mont-de-Prouvais.

Craonne Is Passed.

"Following the enemy in his new retreat between the Aisne and the Oise, our troops reached the Ailette, north of Craonne, advancing their line to within four kilometers (two and a half miles) of Laon."

The foregoing statement implies the capture of Craonne, the last bulwark southeast of Laon, a little more than two miles from the great strategic center, which is about to fall.

To the northeast, along the Sere River, villages are burning, the statement says.

On the St. Gobain plateau the French captured St. Nicholas-aux-Bois and Suzy.

(Note—Both these places are east of the forest of St. Gobain, which thus seems to be either encircled or outflanked. Capture of these towns also shows the French are driving on Laon not only from the south and southeast, where last night they were only two and a half miles from the city, but also driving on Laon from the west and northwest. St. Nicholas-aux-Bois lies eight miles northwest, and Suzy only six miles almost due west of Laon.)

Italian North of Ailette.

The Italian contingents fighting with the French made further progress north of the Ailette. Further eastward the French now hold the line Ailette-Berlioz-Amfontaine.

(Note—This shows another French movement on Laon from the far southeast, astride the Rhema-Laon Railway.)

Berlin, via London, Oct. 13.—"We withdrew north of Cambrai," says today's war office statement reporting yesterday's operations, "as a result of the enemy's successful penetration of our positions on both sides of Neuville."

Haig Reports Advances Near Douai and Lens.

London, Oct. 13.—Further progress in the regions of Douai and Le Cateau and northeast of Lens was announced by Field Marshal Haig in his night report.

The British and Americans extended their bridgeheads at Solennes (east of the Selle, five and a half miles northwest of Le Cateau) and progressed on the west bank of the Selle River.

They captured Courcelles-le-Lens (four miles northwest of Douai) and Noyelle-Godault (three and a half miles northwest of Douai) and are approaching the Haute-Douai Canal.

LAUNCH FINAL LIBERTY LOAN THRUST HERE

Capital Must Subscribe Loan Quota by Saturday Night.

ISSUE PEACE WARNING

Handicaps Must Be Overcome and District Put Over Top.

Don't let the Germans fool you!

YOUR subscription to the Fourth Liberty Loan is needed NOW.

The hour is critical. All the world is watching Washington. Failure to subscribe the District's quota would be a national disaster.

President Wilson will handle the peace notes.

YOUR duty is to provide the sinews of war.

Put every dollar you can raise in Fourth Liberty Loan bonds.

Liberty Loan Committee, D. C.

Before midnight Saturday Washington's quota in the liberty loan drive, now more than \$12,000,000 must be reached. Members of the Liberty Loan Committee of the District and the army of volunteer workers will throw all their energy into the final week of the drive which begins today.

Realizing the danger of a slackening of effort on the part of the public as a result of the German peace offer, the liberty loan workers are determined to put forth increased effort during the six days that remain to impress upon the people of Washington the importance of over-subscribing the loan. Rather than a lessening of effort, the crisis created by the peace offer coupled with the influenza epidemic, make imperative redoubling of effort everywhere to insure the success of the loan. Officials of the government and members of the Liberty Loan Committee realize the gravity of the situation and know that failure of the loan in the National Capital at this critical time would be nothing less than a national disaster.

Committee Expresses Confidence.

Despite the admitted handicaps, however, under which the campaign is being conducted here, members of the Liberty Loan Committee express absolute confidence that Washington's quota will be not only reached but exceeded by a handsome margin before Saturday night. There are many large subscriptions which will be received during the present week. It is expected, and there also are thousands of men and women of moderate means who have delayed their subscriptions until the mid-month payday, which is tomorrow.

An important feature of the remaining week of the campaign will be the continuation of the canvass of the Liberty Loan Committee in the District, which was begun Friday by a special team of prominent business and professional men, and which netted more than \$1,000,000 in two days. The canvass is but scratch in this field, and the committee believes, and the canvass will be pushed for the remainder of the week with the utmost vigor. Already there are scores of names of Washington business organizations on the city's honor roll, and the additional names will be published each day as the canvass progresses.

Speak in Offices.

Another important feature of the final week's campaign will be among the government employees by an army of speakers under the leadership of John D. Cuyler, chairman of the subcommittee on speakers, to overcome the handicap brought about by the ban placed on meetings, members of this subcommittee have devised a plan of sending an army of speakers into each of the departments, where they will visit the rooms where the clerks are at work and make five-minute liberty loan talks. This work will begin this morning when forty speakers will invade the Treasury Department and its various branches and carry the buy-more-bonds message to all the workers. Similar organizations of speakers will visit the other departments during the week.

YANK OUTLINES TERMS.

American Tells Boche How to Get Armistice.

Paris, Oct. 13.—An American boy working with the French artillery on the Champagne front, and who has been twice decorated, says in a private letter to a friend here: "We are still very busy in spite of the Germans demanding an armistice. We will give him an armistice after knocking him out of him, and not before."

BAKER RETURNS HOME.

War Officials Land Safely from France.

An Atlantic Port, Oct. 13.—Secretary Newton D. Baker, John D. Ryan, director of aircraft production, and Brig. Gen. Hines, chief of embarkation, arrived here today after a tour of the American front in France. The party left immediately for Washington.

Gorgas, who was one of the party accompanying Secretary Baker on his trip abroad, had remained in France.

Spanish Ship Brings No "Flu."

An Atlantic Port, Oct. 13.—Cheering news was brought by a Spanish ship which arrived here today after a tour of the American front in France. The ship was carrying a crew of 1,000 men and passengers among crew and passengers and no illness of any kind save a case of rheumatism. Influenza is on the wane in Spain, it was declared by officers of the vessel.

Peace Bid Gives Joy to France

Paris, Oct. 13.—Public opinion here has returned to the same optimism about an early ending of the war that marked last Sunday when the German peace offer was first made known. The skepticism which prevailed during the middle of the week is now past.

"What changes within eight days!" exclaimed Marcel Soudat, Socialist leader and former minister in L'Heure. "Now everybody begins to believe that peace is near."

Soudat demands as the first condition of an armistice that the Germans cease burning French cities and villages. Maurice Barres, Nationalist leader, a member of the French Academy, writes: "The German government is sinking into confusion. The Emperor is reported suffering from a serious attack of neurasthenia. He has decided to abdicate and disposes of the Crown Prince in favor of one of his other sons. The German government is caught in a disastrous dilemma. Acceptance of Wilson's terms means public confession of defeat."

M. Barres quotes Dr. Mathias Borge, the centrist leader, now a member of Prince Max's government, without portfolio, as saying that Germany has already put the military power under civilian control, a claim which many writers distrust, saying: "The beast changes its colors, but only in self-defense."

Barres, however, represents the Germans as acclaiming Von Schuck as the first non-Prussian war minister, which he disavows, proving that Germany is disowning the Prussian hegemony.

Paul Munier, editor of the radical Verite, argues that the German Reichstag is insufficient.

Four Strings Tied to Hun Acceptance

London, Oct. 13.—The Amsterdam Tyd's Berlin correspondent telegraphs to his paper that Germany will evacuate the occupied territories, provided:

1. That the armistice begin immediately.
2. That none but Belgian troops go into Belgium.
3. That peace negotiations be opened immediately after the evacuation.
4. That the allies exchange notes agreeing to President Wilson's terms.

The Amsterdam Tyd's correspondent in Berlin was the first to be informed of the German peace offer a week ago. It is probable, therefore, that the above German "conditions" have been officially communicated to this journalistic "persona grata."

Prince Max's Reply Received in London

London, Oct. 13.—A copy of Germany's answer to President Wilson was received at the foreign office here this morning.

Foreign Minister Balfour and Chancellor of the Exchequer Bonar Law left London to confer with Premier Lloyd George.

The belief here is general that no armistice is possible except upon rigorous guarantees from Germany that she will not use the interval by reviving for a resumption of the fighting.

It is also generally believed President Wilson will consult the allies before making his final answer.

France Urges Foch Shall Fix Terms

Paris, Oct. 13.—Leading French newspapers today are unanimous in expressing the view that an armistice is agreed upon, Foch alone should frame the conditions.

Home Libre (Premier Clemenceau's newspaper) declares: "Germany has lost the war. Her own military party admits that it is vanquished."

Le Petit Parisien says: "No 'mixed commission' is going to draw the armistice conditions. The vanquished will have no part in stipulating the conditions. Foch will dictate and the Germans will obey."

"Perrinax," writing in the Echo de Paris, warns of a German trick by which the enemy would evacuate all but Alsace-Lorraine unless the victory is pressed.

Must Dictate Peace, London Press View

London, Oct. 13.—The few newspapers publishing today are vigorous in their demands for nipping in the bud all possible German attempts to enter into long discussions and thus escape the consequences of her defeat in the field.

"The allies will dictate, not negotiate peace," says the Evening Standard. "Any paltering with the Kaiser's treacherous satellites involves the certainty of renewed conflict in the early future. We must punish the criminals."

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BAKER ESCAPES U-BOAT COMING FROM FRANCE

Arrives on "Ghost Ship" That Traveled Abreast of Lost Hiron.

URGES ALL WAR SPEED

Liberty Loan Must Uphold Victorious Advance of Troops, He Says.

"Whatever the result of the peace proposals, the War Department must proceed at full speed with men and supplies." This was the comment on the German peace talk last night from Secretary Baker, on his return from a visit of more than a month to the front.

Exuberant with confidence of great victory and praise of the bravery of the Americans, Secretary Baker embarked early yesterday morning at an Atlantic port aboard the Northern Pacific, called by the Germans the "ghost ship," and only narrowly escaping the German submarine that sank the Hiron a few days ago, with 300 lives lost, the Hiron being approximately abreast of the "ghost ship" on a course some miles away.

It became known last night that Secretary Baker, aboard the same vessel on the way across after he left here August 20, was in danger of being lost when the Hiron was torpedoed.

The "ghost ship" missed the fate of the Hiron only through the timely precautions taken to protect the Secretary of War and his party, which included John D. Ryan, Second Assistant Secretary of War; Brig. Gen. Frank L. Hines, chief of the military service; Walter Gifford, director of the Council of National Defense; Julius Rosenwald, of the council; Capt. R. E. Christie, Jr., aide to Mr. Ryan; Joseph Hostetter, of the United States Shipping Board.

Course Was Directed.

The presence of a submarine lurking in the course in which the Hiron was sunk was "spotted," and the Northern Pacific was diverted. The Secretary had the protection of naval convoy, however, only for two days out of five, which was cleared October 8 at daylight. The rest of the way she came alone, making the fact that she was alone the more dangerous. "Ghost Ship" sobriquet—twenty-five knots a fast that, as the German submarine prisoners have said, when a submarine sights her on the horizon and dives to make a course that will intercept her and then rises to attack, the "ghost ship" is on the other horizon. Some ghostly similitude is lent by the fact that the vessel does not betray herself till hull up on the sky line, as she is an all burner with special smokeless devices.

Secretary Baker saw both battles of St. Mihiel and described the taking of the town and wiping out of the salient by the Americans as the greatest concentration of artillery and air force ever seen in this war. He entered the town the morning after the evening it was evacuated.

Trip Was Successful.

Discussing the purposes of his trip to the front and his experiences there, Secretary Baker said in part: "My trip abroad was principally for the purpose of arranging further cooperation in the matter of shipping for troops and supplies. It was untiringly successful, and a complete understanding has been reached which assures the American army adequate cargo tonnage for its support. The matter was taken up with the Inter-Allied Maritime Transport Council and the co-operation of the British, French and Italian governments was heartily given."

"Many questions involving co-operation on the part of the several governments were taken up and satisfactorily settled."

"With regard to shipping, aircraft, ordnance and other parts of the allied program, the contribution which the United States can make is rendered definite and the means of accomplishment are arranged."

Loan Must Be Rushed.

When asked about the liberty loan, Secretary Baker said: "The allied armies are now in the full tide of victorious advance. American divisions are fighting with the British, with the French and in their own sectors, and everywhere the enemy is in retreat and disorder."

"The army has done and is doing all that a proud and grateful country could ask, and the time has come for us to put in every ounce of our strength to assure its complete victory."

"The people at home have a solemn responsibility for their share in the final result. The liberty loan must go to the top."

"Its success is both our message of gratitude to the boys who are braving war's worst perils in defense of our liberties and a message to Germany that our people at home are as resolute as our soldiers are brave. Whatever the result of the peace proposals, the War Department must proceed at full speed with men and supplies."

Tells of St. Mihiel.

Secretary Baker then told of seeing the two battles at St. Mihiel. "The battle of St. Mihiel," he said, "started the present triumphant advance of the allied armies. From a fortified hill overlooking the battle-

Continued on page two.

Official Note Expected to Reach Swiss Legation Today -- Wilson Ready for Retort.

MAY SPURN PLEA AS INSINCERE

Washington Likely to Reject Proposal for Armistice as Coming from Same Militarist Government.

President Wilson, accompanied by Col. House, his confidential adviser, returned to the Capital last night from New York.

The President has reached a decision on the German reply to his note of inquiry, but he will not act until the official text of the note is delivered to the State Department by Fredrick Oederlin, the Swiss Charge d'Affaires. The official communication had not reached the Swiss Legation at a late hour last night, but it is believed it will arrive today. Mr. Oederlin will take it immediately to Secretary Lansing.

SILENCE STILL MAINTAINED.

In its absence, however, both the White House and State Department maintained silence on the entire affair. There was but on thing said, and it was that the American public should suspend judgment on the note until the President reaches a decision on it, and that decision is made public to the world.

If sentiment here, reflected by officials—diplomats and members of both the Senate and House—is a gauge of the President's opinion the German proposal will be rejected as insincere.

One day's scrutiny of the unofficial text was sufficient for the Capital to set down Prince Max's reply as a most cleverly worded document, the essence of which was insincerity.

The President, it was said last night, may answer the German note as soon as he receives it, and then go before Congress with an address that will be explanatory of his action.

WILL TALK BUSINESS LATER.

Meantime, not one single individual in Washington expressed the view that he could "talk business" with Germany on the basis of the proposals of the chancellor. It is admitted that Germany wanting peace, is ready to make huge concessions, but everyone says it would be foolhardy for the United States and the allies to consider concessions from an enemy whose every action has breathed treachery and duplicity.

There is a reason for this sentiment, and it is found in the chancellor's reply. Officials say the first two questions appear—and there is a touch of suspicion even in their mention of the word "appear"—to be answered satisfactorily. The third question, they point out, reflects the out-and-out camouflage.

In reality, they say, it is unanswered, and they expect the President to make this point plain. The "present German government," it is believed, is the same German government that violated Belgium, ravaged Russia, winked—at the wholesale destruction of innocent persons and passively stood by while every other crime was being committed.

Berlin Rejoices in Prospects for Peace

Copenhagen, Oct. 13.—Thousands of workers thronged the streets of Berlin all last night, waiting eagerly for the first "extra" telling of Germany's reply to President Wilson, according to dispatches from the capital today.

At 10 o'clock the first "extra" was issued. Hundreds of thousands of copies were snatched up as fast as they were put on the street. The news was received with unbounded enthusiasm, women shedding tears of joy and crying "Thank God, peace!"

Holland Prepares to Stop Fleeing Huns

Paris, Oct. 13.—Gustave Hervé, the former revolutionary, writes in La Victoire:

"The Dutch authorities feel that the German Flanders armies are sufficiently exposed to warrant a propaganda literature, dropped behind the frontiers prepared to capture and disarm those that may flee across the border."

Huns Captured Have Allied Propaganda

London.—Of the first 30,000 prisoners taken by the British in their recent offensive, a check-up now shows that about ninety per cent of them had in their pockets some of the allied propaganda literature, dropped behind the German lines by airplanes.

Huns Organize to Punish Food Hogs

Amsterdam.—Darmstadt has a lynching society of forty members which takes it upon itself to punish food hogs. Six of its members beat into unconsciousness with clubs a man who had hoarded a quantity of eggs, bacon and potatoes.

Plan Welcome for Gompers.

New York, Oct. 13.—Samuel Gompers is to be accorded a welcome back to America on November 8 at a national mass meeting in Chicago under the auspices of the American alliance for labor and democracy. It was announced tonight by Director Robert M. La Follette.

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